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"Take away the circumstance of the duellist's exposing his own life, and it becomes assassination; add this circumstance, and what difference does it make? None but this, that fewer perhaps, will imitate the example, and human life will be more safe, when it cannot be attacked without equal danger to the aggressor's own.

"Public opinion is not easily controlled by civil institutions; for which reason I question whether any regulations can be contrived of sufficient force to suppress or change the rule of honour, which stigmatizes all scruples about duelling, with the reproach of cowardice. The insufficiency of redress which the law of the land affords for those injuries which chiefly affect a man's sensibility and reputation, tempts many to redress themselves. Prosecutions for such offences, by the trifling damages that are received, serve only to make the sufferer more ridiculous. This ought to be remedied.

"For the army, where the point of honour is cultivated with exquisite attention and refinement, I would establish *a court of honour*, with a power of awarding those submissions and acknowledgments, which it is generally the purpose of a challenge to obtain, and it might grow into a fashion with persons of rank of all professions, to refer their quarrels to this tribunal.

"But if this should fail, rather than let such a barbarous custom continue amongst us, I would have recourse to the law established by Frederick the Great; "I would make the champions continue the contest till one of them was killed, and I would hang the survivor."

A FRIEND TO SOCIETY.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A MIRROR FOR REPRESENTATIVES.

ON looking over some old papers lately, I met with the following address of the late William Brownlow, to the freeholders of the county of Armagh. I well remember his manner of acting at the election which ensued. He made no canvass, and brought up no tallies, while the voters for the two rival candidates, between whom the contest lay, agreed in giving to him their suffrages. He sat in a dignified manner, receiving from both sides, the homage due to virtue, and his long faithful services, of which he says no more than what was strictly due in this Address. I remember it was objected by some little minds at the time, that he acted with too much hauteur on the occasion, but it was the conscious dignity of virtue, and a just reliance on his integrity. I revive the circumstance now, as an attempt to fan the embers of that spirit of independence which is in danger of becoming extinct. Certain untoward circumstances, have caused the spirit of virtuous independence to become unfashionable. I wish for its revival as connected with the best interests of man. Here is an excellent lesson for Representatives, that they in like manner may surrender their trust, supported by a sense of conscious rectitude. But alas! how few are qualified to act a similar part. Many of them are too fond of the favours of the crown, or of the minister, to be faithful servants to the people, and thus the popular branch of our Constitution is in some danger of being lost.

K.

"TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF ARMAGH,

"*Gentlemen*,

"I HAVE now served you six-and-thirty years, and can with a safe conscience assert, that I never in that time attempted to apply the sacred trust you reposed in me to my own interest or advantage in any shape whatever, but acted with constant diligence and attention to the utmost of my power for the public service. Relying upon this, and confident from the very honourable marks of approbation I had at several times received, that my proffer of service would be as pleasing to you as it was to myself, I again tendered it; though, had I consulted only my ease, retirement would have better suited me. I cannot suppose that at my time of life and length of service you could require or expect personal solicitation; I am not equal to the fatigue; and indeed what had I to solicit, but a farther opportunity to serve you and the public, as far as I was able, at the expense of much labour and assiduity? for certainly my own private advantage was in no sort concerned.

"I have ever looked upon the honour

of representing a free people, in the manner I have so many years enjoyed it, as the highest I could obtain; I never desire it on other terms. I will not urge any man to give me a vote that does not proceed from his heart. Look back at my conduct and see how you have been served; see whether I have not been forward to promote every advantage that the nation has received since I have been your Representative. The freeing her Constitution from the dependence in which it was so long held—shortening the duration of Parliaments, which is a proper check on the conduct of the Representative—extending the freedom of Trade, and encouraging the Linen in every branch: in short, every thing that was done or attempted for the advantage of this country had my warmest support. However, if you are of opinion, that you can be better served by any other man, avail yourselves of your privilege, and elect him; far be it from me to wish the Freedom of Election should be cramped. I shall neither be jealous of his situation nor accuse you of ingratitude; but if inclination, gratitude, or public spirit should induce you to place your confidence again in me, long experience may have convinced you that you will not be deceived.

"I have now made known my sentiments and the ground on which I proceed; nothing remains for me but to wait with respectful submission for your determination; these are the only means by which I shall attempt your favour. Be assured it shall never be laid to my charge, that I have corrupted the morals of the county, by using any of the arts too frequent at Elections. If I can do the county service, my ambition is gratified; I am not the man to injure it for any consideration whatever. Let my situation in life be what it may, I shall ever remain a steady friend to my country, and never forfeit the character of an honest, uncorrupt man, which I thank God I have firmly established.

"I am Gentlemen, with every sentiment of duty and respect, Your very faithful and obedient humble servant,

"W. BROWNLOW."

Dublin, April 17, 1790.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

HISTORY OF TYTHES.

AMONG the great variety of subjects that have occupied the columns of the Belfast News-papers for the last year, few have been more conspicuous than Tithes. The public have seen many publications complaining of the system as injurious to agriculture, and oppressive to that numerous and useful body of men, the land-holders; and an equal number at least contending for the propriety and continuance of the Tithe laws as they now stand.

The subject was introduced by a complaint from the grand Jury of Armagh against the exorbitant exactions of some clergymen in that county; the reply of the clergy and most of the subsequent publications seem to have treated it with too much asperity to produce conviction on the minds of the parties, and the contest was maintained more with the appearance of indulging in reflections, than with a view to remove prejudices, and place the subject in a clear point of view.

If we consider the great length of time that Tithes have been established as a legal mode of support for the clergy, and that the certainty of their continuance must have operated as a strong inducement to many of them to qualify themselves for the office, and relinquish every other prospect of maintenance that might have been open to them, we shall not be much surprized at their being alarmed at any proposal for abolishing or altering them; it is natural for a man to be tenacious of what he conceives to be his property, and cautious of countenancing any thing that he imagines may have a tendency to injure it.

These considerations ought to incline every moderate man to make great allowances for the objections of the clergy to a commutation or other alteration proposed to be made in the Tithe laws. They have a legal claim to Tithes. They have been long in their possession, and until they are satisfied that the alteration will not be a loss to them, they are at least entitled to the liberty of stating their objections.